

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8, 9 and 12-22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Lewis et al. in U.S. Patent No. 6,592,001. Additionally, the Examiner rejected claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Lewis in U.S. Patent No. 6,592,001. Claims 1, 2 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Paukov U.S. Patent No. 6,769,589. Claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Allegre in U.S. Patent No. 6,869,041. The Examiner objected to claim 7 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would consider it allowable if it was rewritten in independent form.

In response to the informalities noted by the Examiner, claim 7 has been canceled and claims 1-6 and 8-23 have been amended with the subject matter of claim 7 incorporated into claims 1 and 23. Accordingly, in view of the indication of the allowability of claim 7, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

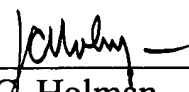
Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and

reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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